

NOTES FROM THE MEDICAL PRESS

IN CHARGE OF
ELIZABETH ROBINSON SCOVIL



THE *Medical Review of Reviews* of August 25 gives the following from the "Archives of Pædiatrics," by F. M. Crandall, M.D., on "The Malnutrition of Tuberculous Children:"

1. Wasting, anaemia, and other evidences of malnutrition are constant accompaniments of tuberculosis in children.
2. These symptoms may occur in infants long before local disease can be detected, and occasionally no local signs whatever are manifest before death.
3. In infants, tuberculosis shows a special tendency to be disseminated, or to conceal itself in deep tissues, as the lymph-nodes. The disease may then run a course identical with simple marasmus.
4. In some cases a period of anaemia and wasting is followed by a stage of irregular fever, after which local lesions appear, usually in the lungs.
5. In other cases tuberculosis in children begins with well-marked local manifestations, particularly pneumonia. In these, evidences of malnutrition appear promptly, and are usually progressive. The anaemia of tuberculosis, whether it appears before or after the occurrence of other symptoms, is usually a simple anaemia and presents nothing characteristic.
6. A diagnosis of tuberculosis cannot be made from the character of the anaemia alone or the malnutrition. Persistent and increasing malnutrition in a child without discoverable cause is always suggestive of tuberculosis.

Anæmia in adolescents should receive prompt and active attention, for it vastly increases the danger of tubercular invasion, which is particularly common at that period of life.

EPISTAXIS IN THE NEW-BORN.—D'Astros (*Archives de Medicine des Infants*) reviews the literature of epistaxis in the new-born, and believes it to be always symptomatic of systemic infection. Hereditary syphilis, either with or without local nasal lesions, is the most frequent cause. In some cases a septic infection is the aetiological factor.

Not uncommonly there is both syphilis and sepsis. In obscure cases careful examination may still reveal signs of latent syphilis. Idiopathic cases, so-called, are rare, if they ever occur. The amount of hemorrhage is not usually large, nor is it in most cases dangerous. The gravity comes from its underlying cause, towards which treatment should be vigorously directed at an early stage.

PROTECTION OF SIGHT AND HEARING OF SCHOOL-CHILDREN.—The Illinois State Board of Health has issued a circular detailing the method by which tests of the sight and hearing of school-children in the State may be made. The facts to be ascertained are the following: (1) Does the pupil habitually suffer from inflamed lids or eyes? (2) Does the pupil fail to read a majority of the letters in the number xx (20) line of the Snellen test types with either eye? (3) Do

the eyes and head habitually grow weary and painful after study? (4) Is the pupil probably cross-eyed? (5) Does the pupil complain of earache in either ear? (6) Does matter (pus) or a foul odor proceed from either ear? (7) Does the pupil fail to hear an ordinary voice at twenty feet in a quiet room? (8) Does the pupil fail to hear the tick of a good-sized watch at three feet, with either ear, in a quiet room? (9) Does the pupil fail to breathe properly through either nostril? (10) Is the pupil an habitual mouth-breather?

If an affirmative answer is found to any of these questions, the pupil should be given a card or letter of warning to be handed to the parent. The board recommends that examinations on this plan be made in every school in the State.—*Medical News.*

THE *Medical News* of September 6 quotes from Governor Odell's speech at the laying of the corner-stone of the new hospital at Dobbs Ferry as follows:

"I have often thought that perhaps we were too narrow in the conception of our duties, that in the treatment of the wards of the Commonwealth we were transgressing somewhat the limitations which should surround the administration of this important department of the State government. I never believed, however, that the State did not owe to every citizen the duty of giving to him the best service and the most enlightened treatment. There is a happy medium between the enthusiasm which does not stop short of extravagance and cold business proclivities which can see only the saving which may be far from economy.

"We should not, however, in our consideration and treatment of this subject, forget that we owe a duty not only to the weak, but also to those who contribute; that charity should not be abused, and that its liberal character should not be taxed to such an extent as to defeat the object for which it is intended. It was my privilege during the past year to visit all of the State's institutions, and what impressed me more than anything else was that the extravagance of our people had led them more in the direction of expensive and ornate buildings than towards the food-supply and medical treatment that was designed to bring back health and intelligence. It led me to the conclusion that those who were nominally in control practically exercised but little influence for the good of the inmates.

"From this followed legislation intended to cure some of the evils which through years of neglect had grown up and to secure a corresponding benefit to the inmates.

"While its object was at the time misunderstood by some, I am convinced that the result will be of such lasting benefit that its value, which is now more fully recognized, will become more apparent with each succeeding year. . . . Politics should never be permitted to be a factor in the administration of institutions for the unfortunate. It has no place there, and I have so much confidence in the wisdom of our people that I do not believe they would tolerate such interference, but would be quick to condemn those who were instrumental in taking advantage of the deplorable physical conditions which exist in our institutions for either party or personal benefit."

